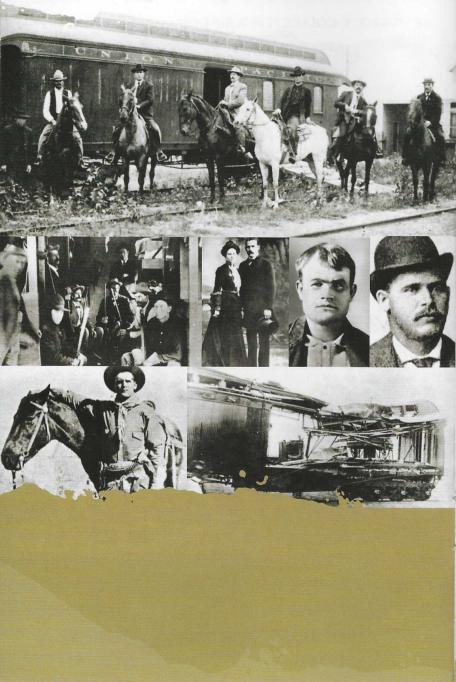
THE ULTIMATE COLLECTOR'S EDITION

PAUL NEWMAN ROBERT REDFORD
BUTCH CASSIDY
SUNDANCE KID



"The Hole in the Wall Gang, led by Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid, are all dead now. But one day they ruled the West."

So opens one of the most legendary and iconic films of all time. Based on the true story of two outlaws who rode roughshod over the West before fleeing to Bolivia, Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid premiered to mixed reviews in the fall of 1969. But while the critics may have been put off by the film's unconventional take on the Western genre, audiences flocked to the sly and stylish epic, making it one of the most commercially successful films in movie history.

Following its release, the accolades also poured in. The film garnered seven Academy Award" nominations', including Best Picture, and notched four wins – for Best Original Screenplay, Score, Song and Cinematography. Over the years, Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid has only grown in stature, spawning a prequel, influencing many other films and giving Robert Redford's Sundance Institute and Sundance Film Festival their names. Often cited as the film that invented the modern buddy movie, Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid even landed squarely on the list of the American Film Institute's Greatest 100 Films of All Time!

Butch: "All right. I'll jump first."

Sundance: "Nope."

Butch: "Then you jump first."

Sundance: "No, I said."

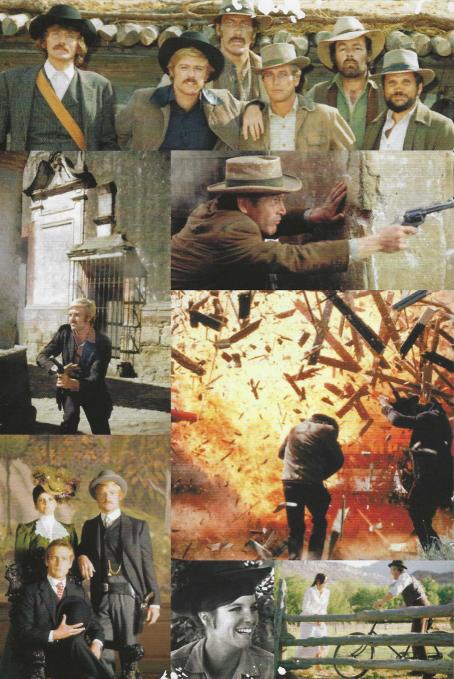
Butch: "What's the matter with you?"

Sundance: "I can't swim!"

Butch: "Why, you crazy.

The fall'll probably kill you."

With their crackling chemistry and dead-on timing, it seems impossible to imagine Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid played by anyone other than Paul Newman and Robert Redford. But several other actors, including Steve McQueen, Warren Beatty and Jack Nicholson, were considered for the roles. After screenwriter William Goldman completed a script titled "The Sundance Kid and Butch Cassidy" and sold it to Twentieth Century Fox for a then-record sum of \$400,000. McOueen showed interest in playing the role of Butch if Newman would play Sundance. The pairing would have presumably spelled box-office gold, as both men were at the height of their stardom in the mid-1960s. But director George Roy Hill insisted on Newman for the role of the wily Hole-in-the-Wall leader Butch. "I really didn't think I could do comedy." Newman said when asked about a starring role in the film. "You don't have to







Sundance: "You just keep thinking, Butch.
That's what you're good at."

With Newman set for the role of Butch, rumors swirled about which actor would play Sundance. Marlon Brando was allegedly set to play the sharp-shooting bandit until he dropped out due to distress over the April 1968 assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Both George Roy Hill and Paul Newman pushed for the less well-known actor Robert Redford as Butch's sidekick. The studio bosses agreed as long as the film's title was flipped to accommodate Newman's superstar status. Not only did Redford and Newman become lifelong friends because of the film - and later re-team with Hill for The Sting - the role of Sundance also made Redford a star in his own right. "This unquestionably was the film that put me in a new place," Redford recalls. "It changed my life."3





Butch: "Who are those guys?"

Though the film is based on a true story, screenwriter William Goldman acknowledges that he embellished some of the facts for dramatic effect. No place more so than with the "superposse," a band of law enforcement officials that relentlessly pursues Butch and Sundance in the film. While it's true that the Hole in the Wall gang robbed the Union Pacific Railroad trains owned by E. H. Harriman, and while it's also true that Harriman formed a posse led by Joe Lefors, that posse never actually hunted Butch and Sundance, "The instant Butch heard about the existence of this new enemy - the half dozen finest lawmen together and out to get him." says Goldman. "he took off immediately for South America. The superposse never actually chased him. He and Sundance and Etta were long gone,"4

Butch: "You didn't see Lefors out there, did you?"
Sundance: "Lefors? No."
Butch: "Good. For a moment there I thought
we were in trouble."

With those final words, Butch and Sundance burst out of their hiding spot, guns blazing, into the San Vicente town square, as the Bolivian army fires on them. But despite this final freeze-frame ending, many believe that the real Butch Cassidy didn't die in Bolivia. When the film came out, Butch's sister Lula Betenson even came forward to claim that Butch lived to be 69 and died a natural death in 1936. "My brother did a lot of traveling the rest of his life under an assumed name when he came back to the United States in 1912," she said. "He never married. He worked as a trapper and as a cowboy. He spent some time in Alaska. There actually was very little of his life portrayed in the film."

FOOTNOTES:

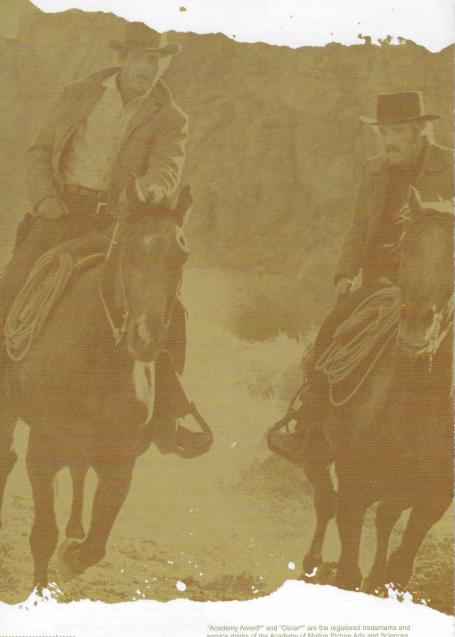
1969: Best Picture, Director (George Roy Hill), Original Screenplay (William Goldman), Dimenstography (Conrad Hall), Original Score (Burt Bacharach), Original Scorg ("Raindrops Keep Fallin" on My Head," Burt Bacharach and Hal Bavid), Sound

2 Paul Newman, George Roy Hill, as quoted in American Movie Classics Magazine, July 1996

3 Robert Redford, as quoted in Los Angeles Times, January 27, 1995

3 William Goldman, Adventures in the Screen Trade, 1993.

1 Luía Betenson, as 'quoted in San Franciscio' (Thornoicis, July 8, 1970.)



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